

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3344

INFO USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, CVIS, RO

SUBJ: COMPLAINT ON U.S. COVERAGE OF GOR EMIGRATION PRACTICES

REF: STATE 155576

1. ON JULY 1, DCM, ACCOMPANED BY CONSOFF, WAS SUMMONED TO MFA CONSULAR DIRECTORATE BY DIRECTOR GEHORGHE BADESCU TO RECEIVE COMPLAINT THAT ERRONEOUS AND FALSE INFORMATION WAS BEING PUBLISHED IN U.S. NEWSPAPERS ABOUT ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PRACTICES.

2. IN FRIENDLY BUT FIRM MANNER BADESCU CHARGED THAT N.Y. DAILY NEWS HAD PUBLISHED FALSE INFORMATION ABOUT IMMIGRANT VISA CASES OF PARASCHIVA PAPA WHOSE HUSBAND GHEORGHE PAPA IS IN THE U.S., AND ABOUT GERMANARU POPA WHO CLAIMS HIS WIFE MIHAELA CANNOT GO TO U.S. BADESCU APPEARED UNCERTAIN ABOUT SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS, NOTING ONLY THAT BOTH MEN HAD TAKEN PART IN A RECENT DEMONSTRATION IN FROM OF THE N.Y. DAILY NEWS AND THAT PAPER HAD SUBSEQUENTLY RGUBLISHED STORY ABOUT ALLEGED PLIGHT OF THEIR FAMILIES IN ROMANIA. HE DID NOT KNOW THE DATE OF THE INCIDENT OR THE STORY.

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3. BADESCU, WHO WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED THAT DAILY NEWS

STORY WAS ALSO PICKED UP BY WASHINGTON POST, REQUESTED THAT WE INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT GHEORGE PAPA'S WIFE PARASCHIVA HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED FOR EMIGRATION AND POPA'S WIFE MIHAELA WAS ESTRANGED FROM HER HUSBAND. HE WANTED THE RECORD SET STRAIGHT IN THIS MATTER.

4. WE REPLIED WE REGRETTED IF NEWS MEDIA HAD PRINTED MIS-INFORMATION, BUT THAT USG HAS NO CONTROL OVER NEWSPAPERS OR WHAT THEY PRINT. WE ADDED THAT ON JUNE 26 THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN INFORMED OF MRS. PAPA'S APPROVAL AND ASSURED BADESCU THAT MR. PAPA WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE FACT, IF INDEED HE HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN SO.

5. AS FOR MRS. MIHAELA POPA, WE OFFERED EMBASSY'S FACILITIES TO HER SO SHE MAY COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH HER HUSBAND BY CABLE. SHE IS BEING INVITED TO EMBASSY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

6. AMBASSADOR BODESCU APPEARED SATISFIED WITH THIS OFFER AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT SUCH INCIDENTS WOULD NOT OCCUR AGAIN IN VIEW OF STEADILY IMPROVING U.S.-GOR RELATIONS. WE REMINDED BADESCU THAT ROMANIA HAD EXPORTED TO THE U.S. A VARIETY OF HIGHLY ARTICULATE COUNTRYMEN IN RECENT YEARS, THAT THE AIR WAS FREE IN THE U.S. AND THAT SOME OF HIS EX-COUNTRYMEN SEEMED TO BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS, WHICH WAS THEIR RIGHT. WE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE INSTANCE AT HAND NOTHING WAS TO BE GAINED BY ANYONE IN FURTHER PURSUANCE OF THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

7. ACTION: IF NOT ALREADY DONE SO, REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONTACT MR. POPA, 531 HOWARD AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CONN. TO INFORM HIM OF WIFE'S APPROVAL. ALSO REQUEST DEPT INFORM BOTH DAILY NEWS AND WASHINGTON POST OF FACTS OF THE MATTER. BARNES

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